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ABSTRACT

One person in five--42.4 million Americans--belongs to youth, viz. those who are 14 to 24 years of age. The 1970 census showed that there were 1.8 million Spanish heritage young Americans between 15 and 24 years of age. The number of white youth is estimated to be 36.6 million. The estimate for blacks and other racial minorities was 5.8 million in 1972. In youth, the population balance between the sexes is almost even. In 1970, for example, the census showed that there were 19.6 million men and boys among youth and 19.9 million women and girls. The 1972 estimate of 42.4 million youth was higher than the 1970 census total of 39.5 million Americans 14 to 24. Population growth accounts for the difference between these figures. Overall, the proportion of all young Americans enrolled in school or college in 1972 was 55 percent. Statistics hint at the Nation's preoccupation with young America--one of five belongs to youth, educational attainment going up, income an important fraction of the whole income spectrum, 44 percent on the move in one year, older at first marriage, and so on. Perhaps, though, the recent stress on youth is lifing. Declining birth rates since the late 1960's suggest a somewhat different future for youth. Not better. Not worse. Different, along with the good that always comes with being 14 to 24 years of age. (Author/JM)

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WE THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

We are the youth of America.

Neither adults nor children,
we are those who are 14 to 24 years of age.

Being young,
we are filled with dreams of adult life in the 21st century.

We are numerous.
One person in five—42.4 million Americans—belongs to youth.

We have been making a comeback.
Early in the present century we made up
as large a proportion of the population as we do now.
Part of our preeminence then was due to the younger age of
the population—people did not live as long in 1910 as they now do.

After 1910, though,
we declined as a proportion of the total pupulation.
By 1950, we were only 16 percent (about one person in six) and,
in 1960, we were 15 percent of the total.
These low proportions were due to low birth rates
during the Depression of the 1930's and the early war years.

By 1970, however,
the great numbers of post-World War II babies had started to grow up,
and now we are again more than 20 percent of the population.

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A Majority And Minorities

The number of us who are white is estimated to be 26.6 million. The estimate for blacks and other racial minorities was 5.8 million in 1972.

The 1970 census provided a more exact measure of other racial and ethnic groups among us. It showed that there were 1.8 million Spanish heritage young Americans between 15 and 24 years of age. Totals for other groups in this 15-24 year age bracket were:

American Indian	148,000
Japanese	96,000
Chinese	90,000
Filipino	56,000
Hawaiian	21,000
Korean	16,000

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Sexes Are Equal

Numerical equality of the sexes is closer to reality in youth than at any other time of life. Adult women outnumber men by a widening margin as they grow older. In childhood, boys outnumber girls. In youth, the population balance between the sexes is almost even. In 1970, for example, the census showed that there were 19.6 million men and boys among youth and 19.9 million women and girls. The count by single years of age was as follows:

Age	Male	Female
14 years	2.1 million	2.0 million
15 years	2.1 million	1.9 million
16 years	2.0 million	1.9 million
17 years	1.9 million	1.9 million
18 years	1.9 million	1.9 million
19 years	1.8 million	1.8 million
20 years	1.7 million	1.8 million
21 years	1.6 million	1.7 million
22 years	1.6 million	1.6 million
23 years	1.6 million	1.6 million
24 years	1.3 million	1.4 million

The 1972 estimate of 42.4 million youth was higher than the 1970 census total of 39.5 million Americans 14 to 24. Population growth accounts for the difference between these figures. In fact, the increase in the youth total has been much greater than for the population as a whole during the 1960's and early 1970's. We young Americans increased in number by 56 percent during 1960-72, while the U.S. population went up by only about 16 percent.

Divided Three Ways

Youth can be divided into three parts. There are the high-school [illegible] years of age), those in the early college years [illegible] and those in the early working years [illegible] year [illegible].

Not everyone fits these categories, but it is useful at its [illegible] Americans this way, so that we can be measured [illegible] during in school, working, or whatever during [illegible] years of rapid change.

The Census Bureau estimates that the high schoolers in [illegible] about [illegible] million in 1972. The early college years group numbered [illegible] million, and the early careerists numbered [illegible] million.

Of the high schoolers, more than [illegible] percent in [illegible] were enrolled in school, most of them in high school. In 1960, about [illegible] percent of the high school age group were enrolled. The proportions in [illegible] percent in 1950 and [illegible] percent in 1940.

About [illegible] percent of the early college years group [illegible] enrolled in school in 1972, the bulk of them in college. Backed in 1960, only [illegible] percent were enrolled. The proportions were [illegible] percent in 1950 and [illegible] percent in 1940.

One in five of the [illegible] to [illegible] year group was enrolled [illegible] in school in 1972. Back in 1940, barely [illegible] percent of young Americans [illegible] to [illegible] years were still enrolled in school.

Overall, the proportion of all of us young Americans [illegible] in school or college in 1972 was [illegible] percent. This included [illegible] million in college and [illegible] million in high school or elementary school.

There is no doubt that more of us young Americans [illegible] in school than has been the case in past years. This is particularly true of [illegible] years. As recently as 1950, only [illegible] percent of civilian [illegible] young men and women were enrolled in college, [illegible] to the [illegible] million [illegible] percent of civilian youth [illegible] to be [illegible] in college in 1972.

Those Not In School

[illegible]

[illegible]

1 In 5 Has A Vocational Skill

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

How Many of Us Work?

[illegible] young Americans are also an [illegible] group. Many are work[illegible] ing, some are both working and going to school, some are in the armed forces, and some [illegible] of them young married women [illegible] ing homes and not in the labor force.

The figures for young [illegible] in the labor force [illegible] to 19 years [illegible] 20 to 24 years [illegible] 16 and 17-year-olds are in school in [illegible]. The total for those not in school is [illegible] years or [illegible].

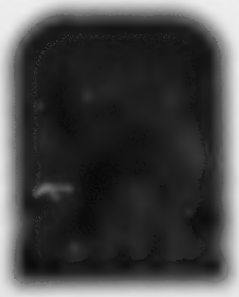
[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

All Kinds of Jobs

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] and youth labor are [illegible] 19 years. Men are [illegible] the fourth quarter of [illegible] [illegible] 1970 census was [illegible] 3 million of [illegible] [illegible] 1,[illegible] were young women and [illegible] young men.

The new data shows nothing [illegible] a [illegible] for [illegible] youth and for [illegible] youth.



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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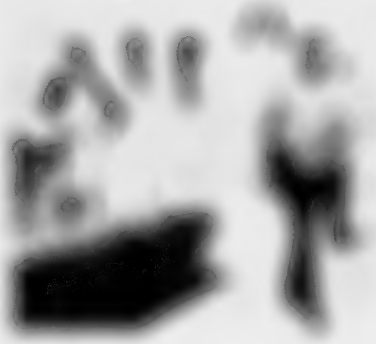
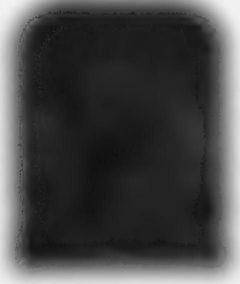
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Where Are The Swamp?



[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]



Ship Ship Hooray

Ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, we're off to sea today.
Ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, we're off to sea today.

Ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, we're off to sea today.
Ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, ship ship hooray, we're off to sea today.

Here Here We Have

Here here we have a ship, ship ship ship ship ship, ship ship ship ship ship ship ship.
Here here we have a ship, ship ship ship ship ship, ship ship ship ship ship ship ship.

Here here we have a ship, ship ship ship ship ship, ship ship ship ship ship ship ship.
Here here we have a ship, ship ship ship ship ship, ship ship ship ship ship ship ship.

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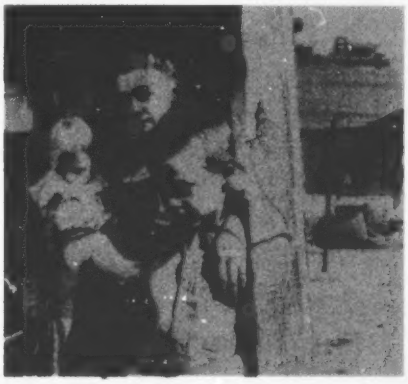
Big Percentage Have Income

We're income producers. Nearly all young men (94 percent) 20-24 years old received income in 1971, and 76 percent of the young women in that age bracket did. A large proportion of teen-agers got income, too. The proportions were 58 percent of the boys and 48 percent of the girls, 14 to 19 years old. Incomes of the younger group were largely less than $1,000, however; the median income for 14- to 19-year old boys was $685 and for girls it was $491.

Youth 20 to 24 received considerably more income. The median for men in this age group was $4,132; for women it was $2,623. Twenty-two percent of young men 20 to 24 and more than 7 percent of the young women had 1971 incomes of $7,000 or more.

And Some of Us Are Poor

About 4 million or 13 percent of American youth were in families with incomes below the low-income level (which was $4,100 for four-person non-farm families in 1971). Of the total, 2.7 million were white and 1.3 million were black. Poor young whites are more likely to live in families headed by a man (53 percent were in this category) and poor young blacks are likely to be found in families headed by a woman (52 percent). In addition, the young whites below the low-income line are found more often living with non-relatives (20 percent in all) than young blacks below the low-income line, only 6 percent of whom were with non-relatives.



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Will Youth Continue To Dominate?

Much has been written in very recent times of our youth-dominated society. It's not difficult to understand why we young Americans have stamped our mark on today. We made a numerical comeback after a comparatively low profile in the 1940's and 1950's. Everyone had to cope with the stresses of a rising population of young people. New schools and institutions had to be built to train us. New ideas for forming our minds were tried. We were more visible everywhere, and we influenced contemporary style in clothes, popular literature, entertainment, food, and home design to a remarkable degree.

Statistics hint at the Nation's preoccupation with young America—one in five belongs to youth, educational attainment going up, income an important fraction of the whole income spectrum, 44 percent on the move in 1 year, older at first marriage, and so on.

Perhaps, though, the recent stress on youth is lifting. Declining birth rates since the late 1960's suggest a somewhat different future for youth. Not better. Not worse. Different, along with the good that always comes with being 14 to 24 years of age.

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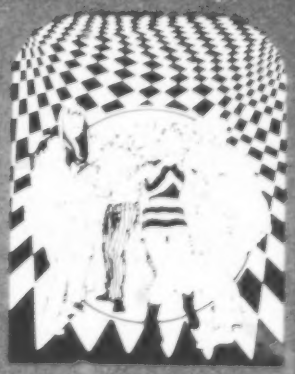
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